Counselor Legal and Ethical Mandates

The Allen School mental health consultant abides by the following legal and ethical mandates.

Privacy, Confidentiality, and Client Privilege:

Privacy: Privacy is a legal and ethical requirement placed on counselors that restricts sharing that a client is or is not receiving mental health care.

Confidentiality: Confidentiality is a legal and ethical requirement placed on counselors that restricts sharing client information to third parties.

Exceptions to Privacy and Confidentiality:
Exceptions to privacy and confidentiality may be made under the following conditions:

- As may be needed to protect the safety of client and others, as allowed under Washington State law;
- The information involves the abuse or neglect of a child (under 18 years) or a vulnerable adult (over age of 60 or has a developmental delay). Clinicians are required to report such incidents to authorities;
- A client brings charges against the clinician, and/or the Counseling Center;
- In the case of a court order or being compelled by law;

Client Privilege: Client privilege is the client’s legal right not to disclose confidential information in a legal proceeding.

Mandated Reporting:
Mandatory reporters are professionals identified by law who MUST make a report if they suspect the abuse, abandonment, neglect, or exploitation of a child (anyone under the age of 18) or a vulnerable adult has occurred. Mental health professionals are mandated reporters.

Duty to Warn:
Mental health providers have a duty to warn potential victims and law enforcement when a client makes an actual threat of physical violence against the reasonably identifiable victim or victims.

Title IX Confidential Employee:
Mental and physical health professionals have professional obligations and commitments to confidentiality. Confidential employees will only share information with express permission or when required by law.